

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to salute Professor Emeritus Kenneth Lindsay for his dedication in the Army and as a teacher. He has left his unique mark on his students, peers, and the art community.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER JEFFREY
SHELTON

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jeffrey Shelton, an officer of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department in North Carolina. Officer Shelton was fatally shot on March 31, 2007 while responding to a call with a fellow officer, Sean Clark.

Officer Shelton was on the force for more than six years before he was killed in the line of duty. The citizens of Charlotte will remember Jeff Shelton as a brave man, who gave his life in service to the city. He will be sorely missed by his fellow officers in the North Tryon Division.

To show their appreciation for Officer Shelton, thousands of Charlotteans gathered to watch his funeral procession in person on April 6, 2007. Citizens have since created a permanent memorial at the very spot where the two officers were killed. This site, near an apartment building in East Charlotte, has been dedicated to the memory of Jeffrey Shelton and Sean Clark.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jeff's wife, Jennifer, and his family and friends at this difficult time. May the legacy of service and dedication that he leaves behind be a comfort to all those who loved him.

HONORING OCCAM'S ENGINEERS
ROBOTICS TEAM

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Occam's Engineers Robotics Team from West Morris Mendham High School in New Jersey, a team that I am proud to represent! They are celebrating their recent attainment of first place in the FIRST Vex Challenge World Championship.

Occam's team was founded by Joshua Kaplan and Michael Medford, who also serve as co-captains. The other members include Adam Brozynski, Joshua Franklin, Julianna Brown, Thomas Cioppettini and Chase Tralka. The team was established at the beginning of the school year and began preparing for the competition in January. After placing last in the FIRST Vex New Jersey Tournament, they completely redesigned their robot, basing their new design on simplicity.

For the FIRST Vex Challenge World Championship in April, the team had to build a robot no larger than 18 inches that was pre-programmed and controlled by remotes to pick up softballs and deposit them into differing receptacles from a set list of parts and guidelines.

The team spent endless hours building and practicing leading up to the competition.

They competed against over 10,000 students from over 23 countries. The judged award is based on the team that performs well in all categories, gaining votes from opposing teams based on performance as well as co-operation with others. Occam won not only the FIRST Vex Challenge Winning Alliance Award but also the FIRST Vex Challenge Inspire Award!

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Occam Engineers Robotics Team and all its members on all of their past, present and future achievements!

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE
CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1592, The Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

This important legislation is about protecting the fundamental rights of the most vulnerable in our society.

The fact is, hate toward people in our country who are deemed different remains copious and persistent.

What is not fact, however, is the campaign of mistruths right-wing extremists with a megaphone have instigated against this bill. They claim, for instance, that passage of this bill will be used to persecute anti-gay churches. To which I say, I don't know of any pastor or minister who would advocate tying a man to a split-rail fence, beating him brutally, and leaving him to die in the cold of the night for no reason other than he was gay.

This legislation addresses long overdue deficiencies in current federal hate crimes law. It extends protections to even more groups of targeted minorities. And it ensures that when states are unwilling or unable to prosecute hate crimes, justice will be served.

Violent acts committed against a member of a targeted minority do not merely beleague the individual. They deprave an entire group and society as a whole by promoting a culture of fear among our diverse communities and perpetuating stereotypes and hate. I have hopes that someday such legislation will no longer be necessary. But the reality is that in this day and age it still is. It is evident in the resurgence of organized white supremacist movements such as the KKK over the past year.

Without the passage of this critical legislation, an alarming amount of hate crime perpetrators around the country will continue to escape punishment under federal law. Such as the assailants who shot frequenters of a gay bar in New Bedford, Massachusetts earlier this year. And the four white male assailants who left Bill Ray, a mentally challenged African American, severely and errantly brain damaged. And the assailants of Michael Sandy, a gay man who was beaten, chased into traffic, hit by a car, and then dragged off the road and attacked a second time.

Until the day comes when there is no need for such legislation, we will continue to have a moral obligation to ensure these victims of hate crimes have access to just recourse.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER SEAN
CLARK

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sean Clark, an officer of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department in North Carolina. Officer Clark was fatally shot on March 31, 2007 while responding to a call with a fellow officer, Jeffrey Shelton.

Officer Clark was on the force for just over a year before he was killed in the line of duty. He leaves behind his wife Sherry, his son Brayden, and a baby who is expected to arrive shortly. The citizens of Charlotte will remember Sean Clark as a brave man, who gave his life in service to the city. He will be sorely missed by his fellow officers in the North Tryon Division.

To show their appreciation for Officer Clark, thousands of Charlotteans gathered to watch his funeral procession in person on April 5, 2007. Citizens have since created a permanent memorial at the very spot where the two officers were killed. This site, near an apartment building in East Charlotte, has been dedicated to the memory of Sean Clark and Jeffrey Shelton.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sean's family and friends at this difficult time. May the legacy of service and dedication that he leaves behind be a comfort to all those who loved him.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOSE
MARTEL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jose Martel, an exceptional maitre d' at the newly opened Michael's Restaurant at South Point Hotel.

Prior to assuming his position with Michael's Restaurant, Mr. Martel served as maitre d' at the Barbary Coast Hotel for 23 years. There, Mr. Martel developed a reputation for a commitment to customer service. As a maitre d', Mr. Martel is known for meeting all of his patrons' needs and has proved himself to be an exemplary model of friendliness, attentiveness, and professionalism.

During his many years of service, Mr. Martel has cultivated a working environment that has distinguished him from others in the field. Mr. Martel's evident dedication to restaurant patrons is unparalleled and his outstanding service was recently honored by a dedication in Casino Connection Magazine.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Jose Martel. His dedication to and respect for his work are commendable and I wish him every continued success.